

REMARKS

No new matter is added by the amendments of claims 1-4, 6-9, 11 and 12 or by new claims 14-43.

Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11 and 12 are amended to put them in appropriate U.S. claim format, to utilize accepted U.S. claim terminology, to remove potential ambiguities and to eliminate multiple dependencies.

New claim 14 corresponds to original claim 4 written as singly dependent from claim 3.

New claims 15-17 correspond to original claim 5 and are ultimately dependent from certain of the base claim from which original claim 5 depended.

New claims 18-26 correspond to original claims 6-8 and are ultimately dependent from certain of the base claims from which claims 6-8 originally depended.

New claims 28-30, 32-34, 36-38 and 40-42 correspond to original claims 9, 11 and 12 and are ultimately dependent from certain of the base claims from which claims 9, 11 and 12 originally depended.

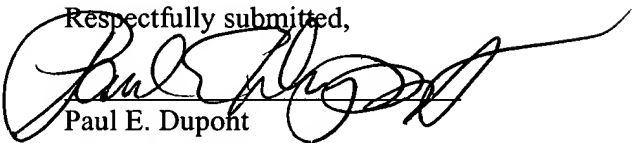
New claims 27, 31, 35, 39 and 43 are directed to the active ingredients of original claims 10 and 13 and are dependent from certain of the base claims from which claims 10 and 13 ultimately depended.

The application as presently amended contains claims 1-4, 6-9, 11, 12 and 14-43.

Attached hereto is a page entitled "Version With Markings To Show Changes Made" which is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the instant amendment.

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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

In The Claims:

Claims 1-4, 6-9, and 11-12 have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) ~~Controlled-release~~ A controlled-release pharmaceutical composition with gastric residence, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ comprising two or three layers and ~~in that it comprises~~ further comprising:

- (a) an active principle combined with an excipient which modifies its release,
- (b) a carbon dioxide-generating system in a swelling hydrophilic polymer matrix, wherein (a) and (b) ~~possibly being~~ are included in the same layer [(a)+(b)] or in separate layers [(a)] and [(b)] and ~~the redundant wherein multiple layers containing~~ [(a)], [(b)] or [(a)+and (b)] in the same tablet ~~possibly having~~ have the same or different compositions and dimensions.

2. (Amended) ~~Composition~~ A composition according to Claim 1; ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the swelling polymer matrix consists of a hydrophilic polymer ~~which may be~~ chosen from the following families of hydrophilic polymers:

- natural polysaccharides,
- cellulose derivatives,
- polyvinylpyrrolidones,
- polymers derived from acrylic acid and methacrylic acid and salts thereof, or
- aminoacid polymers,

or ~~from~~ a mixture of 2 or 3 ~~of them~~, hydrophilic polymers chosen from the same family ~~of hydrophilic polymers~~.

3. (Amended) ~~Composition~~ A composition according to Claim 2, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the hydrophilic polymers ~~may be~~ is chosen from:

- alginates, xanthan gum, guar gum, gum arabic or carob gum,
- methylhydroxyethylcellulose, carboxymethylcellulose, sodium carboxymethylcellulose ~~or~~, calcium carboxymethylcellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose or hydroxypropylmethylcellulose,

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- polyacrylates, or
- polylysines.

4. (Amended) ~~Composition~~ A composition according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 3, characterized in that it also comprises Claim 2 further comprising a~~ hydrophilic excipient capable of promoting the hydration of swelling polymer matrices, chosen from lactose, mannitol, sorbitol, microcrystalline cellulose, sodium lauryl sulfate, sodium ricinoleate, sodium tetradecyl sulfate, sodium dioctyl sulfosulfonate, ketomagrol, poloxamer and polysorbates.

6. (Amended) ~~Composition~~ A composition according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 5, characterized in that Claim 2 wherein the carbon dioxide-generating system comprises at least one carbon dioxide-generating agent which may be chosen from an alkali metal carbonate or , an alkaline-earth metal carbonate, such as calcium carbonate, and an alkali metal bicarbonate, such as sodium bicarbonate.~~

7. (Amended) ~~Composition~~ A composition according to Claim 6; ~~characterized in that wherein the carbon dioxide-generating system comprises at least one carbon dioxide-generating agent and at least one acidic compound chosen from the group consisting of monocarboxylic acids, polycarboxylic acids and partial salts of polycarboxylic acids.~~

8. (Amended) ~~Composition~~ A composition according to either of ~~Claims 6 and Claim 7, characterized in that wherein the acidic compound is tartaric acid, succinic acid, citric acid or a partial salt thereof, such as monosodium citrate.~~

9. (Amended) ~~Composition~~ A composition according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 8, characterized in that Claim 2 wherein the active principle is a benzamide, such as metoclopramide, vernalipride, alizapride, elebopride, amisulpride, tiapride or sulpiride, in the form of an enantiomer, diastereoisomers or a mixture, in particular a racemic mixture, or a salt thereof.~~

11. (Amended) ~~Composition~~ A composition according to ~~one of Claims 1 to 8, characterized in that Claim 2 wherein the active principle is an  $\alpha_1$ -antagonist such as terazosine or alfuzosine in the form of an enantiomer, a diastereoisomer or a mixture, in particular a racemic mixture, or a salt thereof, in particular alfuzosine hydrochloride].~~

12. (Amended) ~~Composition~~ A composition according to ~~one of Claims 1 to 8, characterized in that Claim 2 wherein the active principle is captopril,~~

furosemide, ursodeoxycholic acid or , amoxicillin, (+)- $\alpha$ -aminomethyl-2-methoxy-5-sulfonamidobenzenemethanol or 3'-(2-amino-1-hydroxyethyl)-4'-fluoromethanesulfonanilide,  
or a salt thereof.

Claims 5, 10 and 13 have been cancelled and new claims 14-43 have been added.

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